

ENGLISH NEWSLETTER

A WORLD BOOK DAY SPECIAL

6TH MARCH 2025

ST BEDE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

INSPIRATION AND IMAGINATION

World Book Day began, as always, with a special assembly. We all gathered in the hall to show off our amazing costumes and talk about books, books, books. This year we arrived to the song 'Defying Gravity' from the movie *Wicked*. Why? Well, we were looking at inspiration and imagination. We learned that the movie and the stage show '*Wicked*' were based on a series of books by Gregory Maguire. As Gregory was growing up, he loved to read and was obsessed with the book '*The Wizard of Oz*' by L. Frank Baum (LFB - Elphaba). He was inspired by the character of the Wicked Witch of the West. Was she really wicked? Why?

We also looked at the movie *Wonka*. Simon Farnaby, who wrote the script, was inspired by Roald Dahl's '*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*'. Again, he wondered how Wonka had met the Oompa Loompa's? Why was he a recluse, hiding away from the world and keeping his recipes secret?

This led us to consider how books and stories inspire us. The teachers shared books that inspire them and we even looked at how famous people had been inspired by books, including Taylor Swift. Today, we were going to look at books that inspire us and create artwork around them.



HOW WERE WE INSPIRED IN EARLY YEARS?

In Nursery, we were inspired by the book, '*The Very Hungry Caterpillar*' by Eric Carle. We created amazing collage butterflies. In Reception, we chose '*How to Catch a Star*' by Oliver Jeffers. We created a huge collage of the night sky covered in stars. We combined them to create a huge mural of the book's front cover. All our work will be displayed in the library.



HOW WERE WE INSPIRED IN KS1?

In Year 1 we used 'Elmer' by David McKee to inspire us. We thought about his message that everyone is different and special. Using our collage skills, we created our very own, very unique Elmers. In Year 1/2 we read 'The Colour Monster' by Anna Llenas. We thought about emotions and create our very own colour monsters. In Year 2, we read 'The Dot' by Peter H. Reynolds. It teaches us that we are all creative and there is nothing we can't do. We created some beautiful paintings, letting our imaginations and creativity take flight. Year 2 also visited the care home to share stories with the residents.



HOW WERE WE INSPIRED IN LOWER KS2?

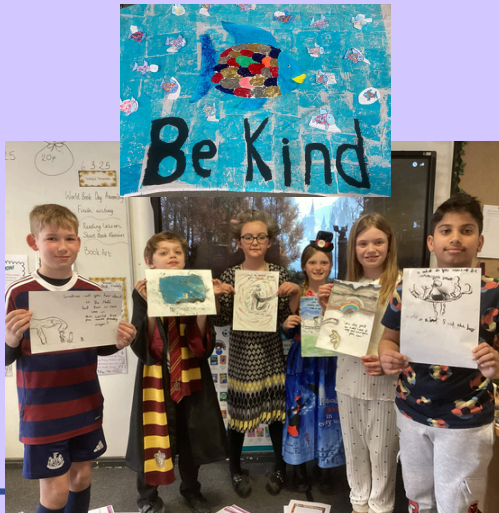
In Year 3 we turned to Roald Dahl, the master of creativity. We loved how he always makes us laugh. We created enormous crocodiles using our DT skills. In Year 3/4 we used 'Varjak Paw' by SF Said whose central theme is about identity - what makes us unique? Why are we special? We used pastels to blend our amazing, very individual picture. In Year 4 we were inspired by 'The Fantastic Mr Fox' by Roald Dahl to create some beautifully detailed water colour paintings.





HOW WERE WE INSPIRED IN UPPER KS2?

In Year 5 we used 'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse' by Charlie Mackesy who share sharing their greatest fears and biggest discoveries about vulnerability, kindness, hope, friendship and love. We created some beautiful artwork to display in our library. In Year 5/6 we used the story of 'The Rainbow Fish' to think about kindness and sharing. We created some amazing individual fish and worked together to create a giant fish and print a beautiful blue seascape. In Year 6 we turned to 'The Final Year' by Matt Goodfellow and explored the challenges of Year Six, from the pressure of exams to the emotional turmoil of friendship changes and family struggles



READING AT HOME

Why is reading at home so important?

Children with access to 25 books at home complete an average of 2 more years of school than children from homes without any books.



Kids 4-5 years old gain 6 months of reading ability by being read to 3 to 5 times per week.



Reading is a critical skill for succeeding in most school subjects.



A child spends 900 hours a year in school and 7800 hours at home.



Research shows that just 20 minutes a day spent reading with a child helps them develop critical reading skills.

